

REQUEST TO AMEND BC REG. 213-99

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to respectfully seek an amendment to the School Act and BC Reg. 213-99 regarding electoral wards for the purpose of electing a Board of Regional Trustees for the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF).

Like any Board of Education in British Columbia, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique is governed by a Board of Trustees. Since the CSF is a provincial board of education, its Board is comprised of seven (7) Regional Trustees. Since its creation, the CSF has grown by 25%. Its data base accounts for over 10,000 members. It also provides educational services to more than 5,700 students, in 37 schools dispersed across the province.

CSF trustee elections take place at the same time as municipal and other board of education elections. However, because trustees are elected from across the province and not just within a municipality, the CSF faces a number of challenges, which the School Act anticipated and responded to by providing the CSF with a legal framework and electoral boundaries as described in BC Reg. 213-99.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to provide the CSF and its members with the certainty of their own regional identity to allow them to vote in their assigned wards. As it stands, BC Reg. 213-99 situates the CSF within the boundaries of the Anglophone Board of Education. The CSF does not believe this practice meets the requirements of the current situation and is seeking an amendment to BC Reg. 213-99 Schedule A that reflects the reality faced by the CSF. The CSF would establish its own wards, using its neighbouring Board of Education regions as a framework, but without limiting itself to the exact boundaries of those zones.

Thus, the proposed amendments mention Boards of Education or parts of Boards of Education as a reference in particular wards; each CSF regional ward will be composed of the catchment areas of its elementary schools located within the ward. This is reflected in the amendment of the section entitled *Wards* at paragraph 5 (2).

As a major change, the CSF would also like to see Surrey and Delta identified as part of the Fraser Valley Ward, since parents and students from those municipalities would be better served in that ward than in the Greater Vancouver Ward:

- a) geographically Surrey and Delta identify better with the Fraser Valley;
- b) the distribution of responsibilities would be shared equitably between the two trustees that represent each the Greater Vancouver Ward and the Fraser Valley Ward.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

BC Reg 213-99

WARDS

Proposed amendment:
to change paragraph 5, Section (2) of BC Reg 213-99

Paragraph 5

Section (2) The area of a ward referred to in subsection (1) is the area that comprises the school districts set out in Schedule A for that ward.

Reasoning:

The CSF would like to change Section (2) of Paragraph 5 of BC Reg 213-99 to allow members living in a ward other than the one in which their child attends elementary school to vote in the ward that covers the catchment area of their child's school. According to our data, 64 members live in a ward outside the catchment area of their child's elementary school. This occurs between the Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley Wards, particularly from Greater Vancouver to Port Coquitlam (École des Pionniers-de-Maillardville) and from the Fraser Valley to Surrey (École Gabrielle-Roy).

SCHEDULE A

Proposed amendment:

To transfer School District No. 36 (Surrey) and School District No. 37 (Delta) from the Greater Vancouver Ward to the Fraser Valley Ward

Reasoning:

Currently, 3,095 members live in the Greater Vancouver Ward, with 141 in Delta and 645 in Surrey, while the Fraser Valley Ward has 1,367 members.

Transferring Delta and Surrey to the Fraser Valley Ward would not only achieve better regional and geographic balance, but also distribute the work more equitably between the two school trustees.

Regional balance – current distribution (as of March 29, 2017):

1. Greater Vancouver: 3,095 members
2. Fraser Valley: 1,367 members

Regional balance – proposed distribution, adding Delta and Surrey to the Fraser Valley Ward:

1. Greater Vancouver: 2,309 members
2. Fraser Valley: 2,153

This distribution could also reduce the number of cases referred to above in Paragraph 5, Section (2) of BC Reg. 213-99, since some parents in the Fraser Valley currently send their children to École Gabrielle-Roy, which is now in the Greater Vancouver Ward.

The table below shows the distribution as it stands and the proposed distribution.

BC Reg. 213-99, Schedule A	BC Reg. 213-99, Schedule A – proposed amendments
Northern B.C. (Nord de la C.-B.) (a) School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chicotin) (b) School District No. 28 (Quesnel) (c) School District No. 49 (Central Coast) (d) School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte) (e) School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) (f) School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) (g) School District No. 57 (Prince George) (h) School District No. 59 (Peace River South) (i) School District No. 60 (Peace River North) (j) School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) (k) School District No. 81 (Fort Nelson) (l) School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains) (m) School District No. 87 (Stikine) (n) School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) (o) School District No. 92 (Nisga'a)	Northern B.C. (Nord de la C.-B.) (a) School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chicotin) (b) School District No. 28 (Quesnel) (c) School District No. 49 (Central Coast) (d) School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte) (e) School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) (f) School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) (g) School District No. 57 (Prince George) (h) School District No. 59 (Peace River South) (i) School District No. 60 (Peace River North) (j) School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) (k) School District No. 81 (Fort Nelson) (l) School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains) (m) School District No. 87 (Stikine) (n) School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) (o) School District No. 92 (Nisga'a)
South East of B.C. (Sud-Est de la C.-B.) (a) School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (b) School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) (c) School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (d) School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) (e) School District No. 19 (Revelstoke) (f) School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) (g) School District No. 22 (Vernon) (h) School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) (i) School District No. 51 (Boundary) (j) School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) (k) School District No. 58 (Nicola- Similkameen) (l) School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) (m) School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) (n) School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)	South East of B.C. (Sud-Est de la C.-B.) (a) School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (b) School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) (c) School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (d) School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) (e) School District No. 19 (Revelstoke) (f) School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) (g) School District No. 22 (Vernon) (h) School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) (i) School District No. 51 (Boundary) (j) School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) (k) School District No. 58 (Nicola- Similkameen) (l) School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) (m) School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) (n) School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)
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(d) School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands) (e) School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley)	(d) School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands) (e) School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley)
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